

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A shock absorber comprising:
 - a pressure tube forming a working chamber;
 - a piston body slidably disposed within said working chamber, said piston body dividing said working chamber into an upper working chamber and a lower working chamber;
 - a piston rod attached to said piston body, said piston rod extending through one end of said pressure tube;
 - a reserve tube surrounding said pressure tube to form a reservoir chamber between said reserve tube and said pressure tube;
 - a base valve assembly disposed between said working chamber and said reserve chamber, said reserve chamber comprising:
 - a cylinder end disposed between said pressure tube and said reserve tube, said cylinder end defining a central fluid passage;
 - an intake valve disposed adjacent said cylinder end to close said central fluid passage, said intake valve defining a plurality of compression passages; and
 - a disc spring biased against said intake valve to close said plurality of compression passages.

2. The shock absorber according to Claim 1, further comprising an intake spring biasing said intake valve against said cylinder end.

3. The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said cylinder end defines an annular land, said intake valve engaging said land to close said central fluid passage.

4. The shock absorber according to Claim 3, wherein said annular land defines a bleed orifice.

5. The shock absorber according to Claim 1, further comprising a bolt extending through said intake valve and a nut threadingly received by said bolt, said disc spring being disposed between said nut and said intake valve.

6. The shock absorber according to Claim 7, further comprising an intake spring disposed between said bolt and said cylinder end, said intake spring biasing said intake valve against said cylinder end.

7. The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said cylinder end defines an annular land, said intake valve engaging said land to close said central fluid passage.

8. The shock absorber according to Claim 7, wherein said annular land defines a bleed orifice.